NATIONAL CONGRESS BULLETIN

Published by
THE NATIONAL CONGRESS OF PARENTS AND TEACHERS
1201 Sixteenth Street N W Washington D C

VOL. II | OCTOBER, 1934 | NO. 4

Broadcasts Introduced by Mrs. Langworthy

A WARM reception was accorded the first of the series of parent education radio programs sponsored by the National Congress of Parents and Teachers and the University of Chicago, as evidenced by letters, telegrams, and telephone calls, commenting on it.

Mrs. B. F. Langworthy, in introducing the series of broadcasts, on October 4, said:

"You in every state from Maine to Oregon, from California to Florida, are, in effect, joining hands to learn together more about your task as parents and citizens. You have a well defined course—a college course, given by famous educators, and, as you say to your children, 'You will get out of this learning in proportion to the effort that you put into it.'

"You will listen to a parent education program in its widest sense. In all the later methods in parent education we are told that not until the child passes out of your home to make a home of his own is our task of educating our children done with. And so this radio program has been built around the growing child from one to twenty, and no subject treated in it may be said to be foreign to our task of educating parents. There is no subject in the whole winter's course that will not fill the need of some or all of the parents who are going to take it.

"So I beg you, draw your friends around you in a social group. Bring your knitting, your mending or your whittling. Listen, take notes, discuss the questions afterward; and at the end of the year take the satisfaction that is yours in a new understanding of your children and yourselves."

The Chicago Mothersingers will supply music to open and close the programs. Each program will include answers by the speaker to questions sent in by listeners. Readers of the BULLETIN are invited to send questions.

(*Continued on page 2*)

Mrs. Raymond Binford, Guilford College, North Carolina, Secretary of the National Congress of Parents and Teachers.

Radio Schedule

N. B. C. Red Network

Thursdays, 5 to 5:30 p.m., E.S.T.

November 1

Recent Curriculum Tendencies—Charles H. Judd, Professor of Education and Chairman, Department of Education, University of Chicago.

November 8

Do Parents Want Good Schools?—Henry Lester Smith, President of the National Education Association and Dean of Education, Indiana University.

November 15

Children at Work—Mrs. Clara M. Beyer, Director, Industrial Division, Children's Bureau, Washington, D. C.

November 22

Vocational Adjustments in a Changing Social World—William F. Russell, Dean, Teachers College, Columbia University, New York City.

November 29

The Home, the School, and the Church as Character-Forming Agencies—Albert W. Palmer, President, Chicago Theological Seminary.

National Board Adopts Goals

THE meeting of the National Board at Niagara Falls, September 24-29, saw the fruition of many long debated plans, and definite decisions were reached on many questions which have perplexed the policy-forming group for a long time. Limited space compels the BULLETIN to confine its account of the meeting to a brief summary of points of particular interest to state parent-teacher leaders. For more detailed information, consult your state president.

Goals

The statement of GOALS for parent-teacher associations as presented at the Des Moines Convention were adopted with minor revisions. Upon recommendation of the state branch, a National Seal will be awarded to local units for attainment. Each state branch will set up its own standards for judging the local work and will present its own certificate if it wishes. See page 3 for statement of goals.

1935 National Convention

April 29 was chosen as the opening date of the 1935 National Convention at the Miami-Biltmore Hotel, Miami, Florida. Following out the keynote which Mrs. Langworthy will emphasize during her three-year term, the convention theme chosen is "The Home—the Index of National Life." A new tempo will be introduced into the convention program with outside speakers appearing only at the evening sessions. Other innovations are being planned to be announced later.

1936 Convention Invitations

Invitations for the 1936 National Convention were submitted by Detroit, Michigan; Milwaukee, Wisconsin; Cincinnati, Ohio; and Richmond, Virginia.

(*Continued on page 2*)

National Board

(*Continued from page* 1)

Motion Pictures

If you have received a copy of the new leaflet on *Motion Picture Appreciation*, by Dr. Edgar Dale, please insert the following correction on page 15, third paragraph:

> This paragraph has been deleted because of an error in printing. The content is in violation of the bylaws and the motion picture policy and program of the National Congress of Parents and Teachers.

Mrs. Gilman urged the appointment of a motion picture chairman in every local unit and district, to set up machinery through which we can operate quickly on matters affecting the carrying out of the Congress motion picture plan.

Our Public Schools

Study of the new book, "Our Public Schools," as a means of building popular support for America's public education system was strongly recommended by the Board. State presidents report wide demand for the book, and a second printing is now being arranged.

Associate Chairmen

Dr. Thomas W. Gosling, Director of the Junior Red Cross, was reappointed Associate Chairman of International Relations, and the following new Associate Chairmen were appointed:

Radio—Mrs. John Sharpless Fox.
Social Hygiene—Mrs. Margaret Wells Wood. (Reappointed.)

The title of Miss Alice Sowers, former Associate Chairman of Parent Education, was changed to "Specialist in Parent Education."

Annual Summary Leaflet

The Annual Summary of Local Unit Information for 1933-34, containing summarized reports from more than 57 percent of the Congress units throughout the country, is now available in pamphlet form. Reprinted from the 1934 National Congress Proceedings, this pamphlet may be purchased from the National Office, price 10 cents a copy. Quantity rates will be supplied upon request.

Library Service

As economic conditions improve, what is the situation and the need in library service? Miss Julia Wright Merrill, Library Service Chairman, told the Board that there is an encouraging use of libraries and of interest in them. However, over 40,000,000 people are still without library service. Library service is being extended to new areas in many states and counties through use of relief workers, with books borrowed from the state library agency, or given by groups and individuals. State and county parent-teacher organizations can help greatly in backing up or stirring up rural library service. State plans for complete statewide library development over a period of years are being worked out by librarians and citizens. Some of these plans call for increased state and federal responsibility and financing, because the local property tax has almost broken down and rural children need library service. State Congresses are requested to work with state library planning committees and to help in carrying out the plans when adopted.

Department Directors

To clarify a misconception, it was stated that the duties of national directors of departments do not include the directing of the activities or plans of work of the corresponding directors in the states, although they lend all help possible when requested. National directors foster and coordinate committees under their departments and help their national chairmen when needed.

Broadcasts Introduced

(*Continued from page* 1)

A Listener's Pamphlet, containing summaries of the addresses of speakers for the first three months, with questions and references, is available from the National Office. The price to groups of ten or more is 10 cents a copy; single copies are 15 cents each.

It is hoped that every parent-teacher association will have one or more listening groups. The National Office will be glad to receive the names of associations having one or more listening groups.

Legislative Program

The National Legislative program for 1935 follows in brief:

1. World Court with reservation which reads, "the Court shall not—without the consent of the United States—entertain any request for an advisory opinion touching any dispute or question in which the United States has or claims an interest."

*2. Motion Pictures.
   a. Regulation of Trade Practices (Prohibiting block-booking, blind-buying, etc.)
   b. Federal Commission to supervise "selection and treatment of subject material used in process of production."
   c. National Film Institute in the U. S. Office of Education.

*3. Federal Food and Drug Act.

4. Maternity and Infancy, Continuance of Protection.

5. Emergency Federal Aid for Education.
   a. To keep open schools which otherwise would be closed without provision for education of children involved.
   b. School buildings after competent, approved surveys.
   c. Refinancing of school indebtedness at lower interest rates.

*6. Election of Board of Education of District of Columbia.

7. Department of Education

*8. Adequate Support of:
   a. Office of Education (Research and Homemaking)
   b. Children's Bureau
   c. Bureau of Home Economics
   d. Division of Extension in Home Economics
   e. Rural Sanitation.

The items (*) starred are those which Mrs. Bannerman states will be active in the 1935 U. S. Congress, and on which she will need strong support from the states if favorable action on these items is to be taken.

Mrs. Bannerman was requested to keep in touch with developments in social legislation and to send to the states any information which is available on this subject.

It was decided by the Board that since the states like very much Mrs. Bannerman's plan of sending suggested items of legislation for inclusion in state legislative programs, and would like it in more expanded form next year, this service should be given.

Goals for Parent-Teacher Associations

Inasmuch as the success of the program of the National Congress of Parents and Teachers depends largely upon the effective work of local units, the National Congress offers these minimum requirements to strengthen and develop the work of the Local Unit:

1. An opportunity given to every adult to recognize his school and community responsibility through membership in the local unit and to share in the work of the group through financial support and personal service.
2. Every member an active participant in some conference or study group within the organization.
3. Members enrolled according to the state plan, and the state and national apportionment of dues for every enrolled member paid to the state treasurer.
4. The financial program of the unit under the direction of an approved budget.
5. Contents of the Local Unit Package, the *National Parent-Teacher Magazine*, and the State Bulletin, used by officers and chairmen in the preparation of the program and the regular work of the association.
6. Congress publications and current Congress Library made available to members and to the public through a bookshelf or library.
7. The entire year's program planned in advance, based upon Congress objectives, and including integrated activities and projects.
8. Publicity under the local chairman carried forward according to state and national plans.
9. Study groups in subjects relating to childhood and youth from infancy to maturity.
10. The organization kept free from partisan, sectarian, or commercial interests, and its business conducted by simple parliamentary procedure based upon bylaws approved by the state branch.
11. Loyalty to council, district, state, and national organization maintained through representation and participation in the entire Congress program.

National Bylaws

When the National Bylaws are changed, the state branches should automatically act in accordance with that change until they have time to bring their own bylaws into line.

Foreign Born

Activities in associations made up largely of members speaking foreign languages were reported by several states. New Jersey has sponsored radio programs in Italian. Texas publishes P.T.A. helps in Spanish. California has publications in Spanish, Japanese, and Norwegian. It was stated that the International Y.W.C.A., 600 Lexington Avenue, New York City, has leaflets on child care and training in foreign languages for use in un-Americanized homes.

Parent-Teacher Week

Parent-Teacher Week, officially proclaimed by the governor, will be observed this fall in several states, as a special season for calling the attention of the public to the need of supporting parent-teacher work.

The states and dates are as follows:

Idaho—October 7-13

Iowa—October 7-13

Nebraska—October 1-7

Washington—October 15-22.

Parent Education Conference

The Fourth Biennial Conference of the National Council of Parent Education in Washington, D. C., November 1-3, will be devoted to a consideration of "Toward a Social Philosophy of Education in Family Life and Parenthood." Dr. Ada Hart Arlitt and Miss Alice Sowers will represent the Congress at this meeting.

Parent Education, a service bulletin for leaders, will be issued six times during 1934-35 by the National Council. The subscription price is $1 a year.

Hearing Week

National Hearing Week—October 14-20—will focus attention of the public on the program of the American Federation of Organizations for the Hard of Hearing. The National Congress of Parents and Teachers indorses the efforts of this organization to detect incipient deafness in children and to arouse parents and teachers to the need of correcting hearing defects of children. The Health Department of the Congress, especially the Committee on the Summer Round-Up, has done much work along this line.

BOOK WEEK—November 11-17

Education Week

The fourteenth annual American Education Week will be observed November 4-11, 1934. The program will be built around the theme *Educating for Tomorrow.* It is sponsored by the National Education Association, the United States Office of Education, and the American Legion. Program material is available from the National Education Association, Washington, D. C. Topics suggested for the day-by-day programs follow:

Monday, November 5—*Planning for Tomorrow*

Tuesday, November 6—*Developing New Types of Schooling*

Wednesday, November 7—*Improving the Rural School*

Thursday, November 8—*Financing Our Schools*

Friday, November 9—*Quickening the Sense of Civic Responsibility* (School Observance of Armistice Day)

Saturday, November 10—*Preparing for New Kinds of Service*

Sunday, November 11—*Enriching Character Through Education.*

The *National Parent-Teacher Magazine* is the only official magazine of the National Congress of Parents and Teachers

Magazine Month

October is *National Parent-Teacher Magazine* Month, and it is fitting that as this month progresses, more and more comments concerning the change in name and size are reaching the editor's desk. Excerpts from a few of these letters follow:

The change from "Child Welfare" to the new name is a big improvement. Now I feel that we will be more likely to get subscribers in our rural community here; where the P.T.A. stands for so much in the minds of our people, it needs no explaining.—*M. Varley.*

Let me take this opportunity to congratulate you heartily on the new magazine. It is most attractive in appearance and valuable in content. You have done a fine piece of work and I hope our members will recognize it and subscribe by thousands.—*Margaretta W. Reeve.*

I can't possibly say enough in praise of the magazine in its new form. It is most attractive in every way, and I really like it far better.—*Mrs. Haven Sawyer.*

I greatly enjoy the new name and form of the magazine and congratulate the editors.—*Mrs. J. R. McBride.*

I would like to say your September Magazine is a big step forward. —*Mrs. A. W. Savage.*

The *National Parent-Teacher* arrived this morning. The set-up is certainly attractive and I believe will make a very favorable impression. I have only had a chance to scan the contents, but it seems to have much practical and interesting information.—*Emma F. Brookmire.*

I hasten to congratulate you on the wonderful improvement that you have made in the publication. It is now a really fine piece of magazine making. The make-up and the mechanical side of the publication put it in the same class as the best periodicals that are published in America, and its contents are interesting and helpful. It ought to appeal to advertisers as a worthwhile medium. With best wishes for success in this fine new enterprise, I am—*Chas. F. Pye.*

Good Driving, a Manual for the High Schools, prepared by the Education Division, National Safety Council, One Park Avenue, New York City, price 25 cents.

Publicity Recordbooks

What is the difference between a local unit publicity recordbook and a procedure book? This question seems to be troubling many BULLETIN readers at this time, and here is the answer:

A procedure book shows the procedure of the entire association, and includes material of all committees, including the publicity committee. See the *Parent-Teacher Manual*, p. 131, for directions for compiling.

A publicity recordbook is a project of the publicity committee and contains only material issued by the publicity committee. See the *Publicity Manual*, p. 70, for directions for compiling.

An association may compile either or both these types of scrapbooks, if it seem desirable.

Publicity Articles

"Handling Publicity for Clubs" is the title of a series of 12 weekly articles by Mrs. Walter H. Buhlig, Regional Publicity Director for the National Congress of Parents and Teachers, to be published in the *Christian Science Monitor*, beginning October 3. These articles will be especially helpful to P.T.A. publicity chairmen. The series may be ordered from the *Christian Science Monitor*, One Norway Street, Boston, Massachusetts, price 60 cents.

Rural Pamphlets

A wealth of help for rural work is contained in the new Congress pamphlets, by Dr. William McKinley Robinson, Rural Service Chairman. "The Rural P.T.A." deals with organization and program planning; "Home Play in Rural Areas" is full of suggestions for recreation in the rural home. The pamphlets are free to Congress units from the state branch, or they may be ordered from the National Office at 5 cents each.

Resolutions

A tentative outline of points to be covered by next year's resolutions was discussed, and states are requested to send in their suggestions to the Resolutions Chairman, Miss Ellen C. Lombard, as soon as possible.

Summer Round-Up

An effort to extend the campaign of smallpox vaccination and diphtheria immunization for children by maintaining closer contact with state health departments was recommended by the Advisory Committee of the Summer Round-Up of the Children, at a meeting in New York, September 29. A joint committee, under the chairmanship of Dr. Clara E. Hayes, Medical Service Director of the American Child Health Association, was appointed to consider the preparation of health radio talks and health playlets for use by local units.

A Letter

From the Colorado Congress of Parents and Teachers to Mrs. B. F. Langworthy:

Business was suspended from 3:00 to 3:30 p.m. (M.S.T.), Thursday, October 4th, while the Board of Managers of the Colorado Congress formed a listening group to the first National Congress broadcast. Through the energy of our Courtesy Chairman, Mrs. F. C. McCord, and the courtesy of the Hotel Cosmopolitan, where the meeting was in progress, a radio was placed in the room and made possible this half-hour of keen and profitable enjoyment.

Members took notes on your talk, and the occasion will be made the basis of feature stories by publicity writers for local benefit. We hope to arrange our business at future board meetings, held on the first Thursday, so that this pleasure may be repeated. We frequently take our board meeting to outlying towns so that it may be a form of extension in smaller districts, and it may not always be possible to hook up a radio. The half-hour program was all too short, though in that time it brought a sense of a oneness of purpose in all branches of P.T.A. work.

Vote of Thanks

A vote of thanks was extended by the National Board to Mrs. Francis Blake, New York State President, Mrs. D. F. McDonell, and Mrs. Chapman, for their fine work toward making the Board meeting a success.